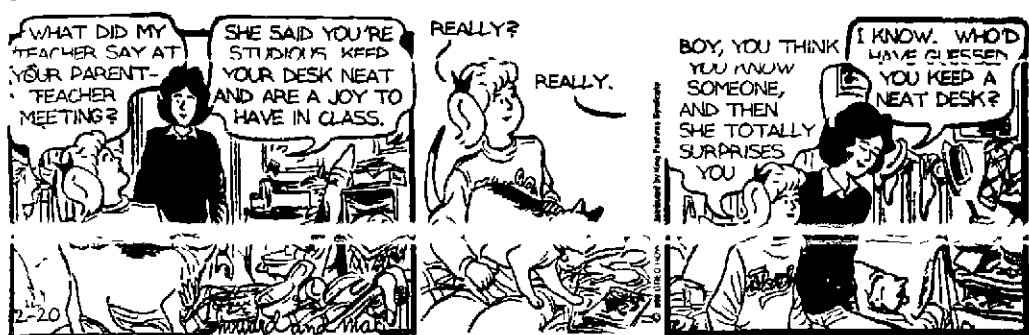


BLONDIE



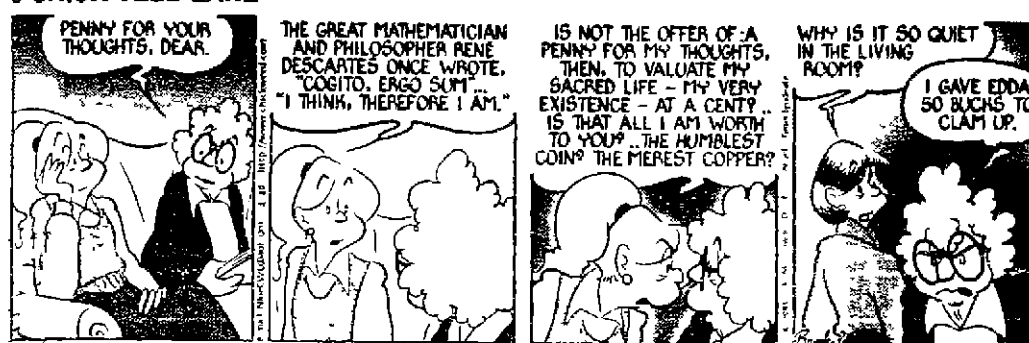
SALLY FORTH



THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN



9 CHICKWEED LANE



ANDY CAPP



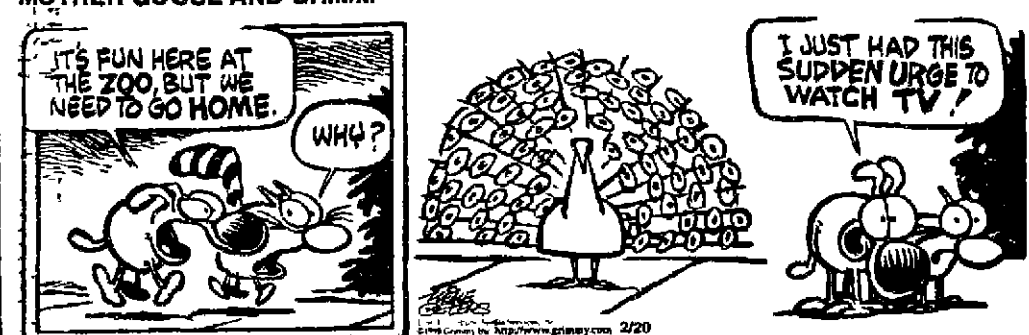
ROSE IS ROSE



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM



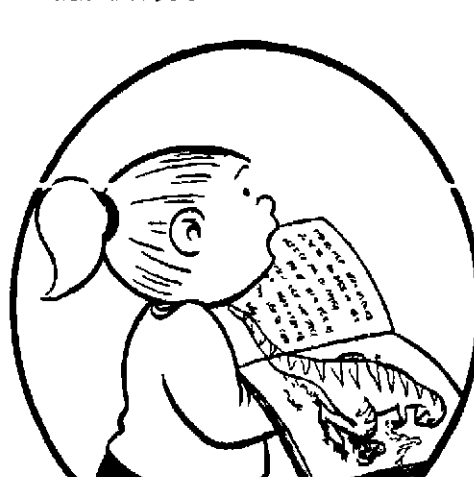
DILBERT



DENNIS THE MENACE



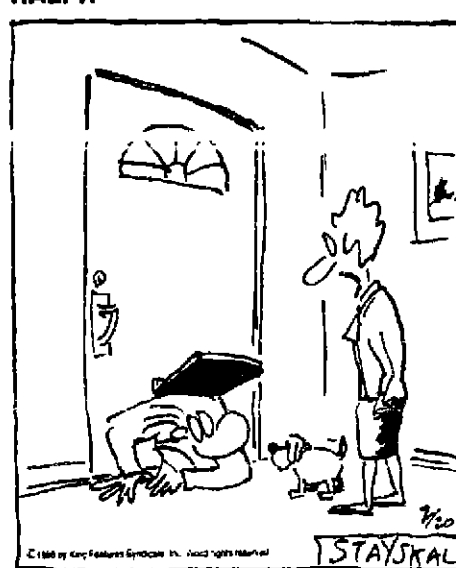
FAMILY CIRCUS



RHYMES WITH ORANGE



RALPH



Today's Birthdays

Fashion designer Gloria Vanderbilt is 74. Actor Sid Vicious is 37. Soul singer Nancy Wilson is 61. Actress Sandy Duncan is 52. Rock musician J. Geils is 52. Actor Peter Strauss is 51. Rock singer-musician-producer Walter Becker (Steely Dan) is 48. Newspaper heiress Patricia Hearst is 44. Basketball player Charles Barkley is 35. Model Cindy Crawford is 32. Singer Brian Littrell (Backstreet Boys) is 23.

I NEED HELP



SCRABBLE

SCRABBLE puzzle grid and instructions. Includes racks 1-4 and a list of words.

HOROSCOPE

For Saturday, Feb. 21, 1998. ARIES (March 21 to April 18) You're in a dreamy, somewhat lazy mood as the day begins. That's OK. TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You have a serious case of the blahs and need to snap out of it. A loved one has just the right suggestion. GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You need to devote some time to cleaning up and reorganizing your surroundings. You've been a bit of a slob lately. CANCER (June 21 to July 22) It's slow-going for you, but you still manage to be productive. Later in the day, you're caught up in a child's imagination. LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) You're tempted to give in to that grumpy mood. This will only succeed in alienating those around you. VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) Lighten up a bit. You're being too hard on yourself and your family. LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) The doldrums have been banished. You're your old sunny self once again. SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Faced with a sticky dilemma involving two friends, your best bet is to remain neutral. SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Sometimes you have to remember that you get what you pay for. Something that appears to be a bargain only turns out to be shoddy merchandise. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) You want to begin a new project, and that's fine. However, it's best to complete something you began a while ago first. AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) A friend comes to you with a devastating problem. However, you have the right words to deal with it. PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) You spend more time than you'd anticipated in a social situation. Thus, you don't get as many chores done as you'd hoped.

WORD SLEUTH

Word Sleuth puzzle grid and instructions. Includes a list of words and a solution.

ACES ON BRIDGE

By Bobby Wolff. "I take all the blame," volunteered North. "I shouldn't have risked the sure 700 rubber for a possible slam bonus." Should North have borne all the blame, or was South guilty of poor play? Dummy's club ace took the first trick, and South cashed four trump winners with naive hopes of forcing a helpful discard or two. On two of his trumps, South discarded a spade and a diamond from dummy. After both defenders discarded without discomfort, South led a club to dummy's king and ruffed a club. With West left with a high club, South cashed dummy's spade ace and ruffed a spade. When the king and queen failed to appear, there was nothing left but the diamond finesse. It failed, and the slam went one down. Should North have settled for his sure game? No, South should have made his "sure" slam. After winning dummy's club ace, South should cash the club king and ruff a club. Next he cashes the ace and king of trumps and ruffs dummy's last club. With East exhausted of hearts and clubs, South leads a spade to dummy's 10. East wins his king, but he has no safe lead. He must offer a free finesse in spades or diamonds, giving South his 12th winner. When you can't develop the crucial trick on your own, you must find a way to enlist the help of the defense.

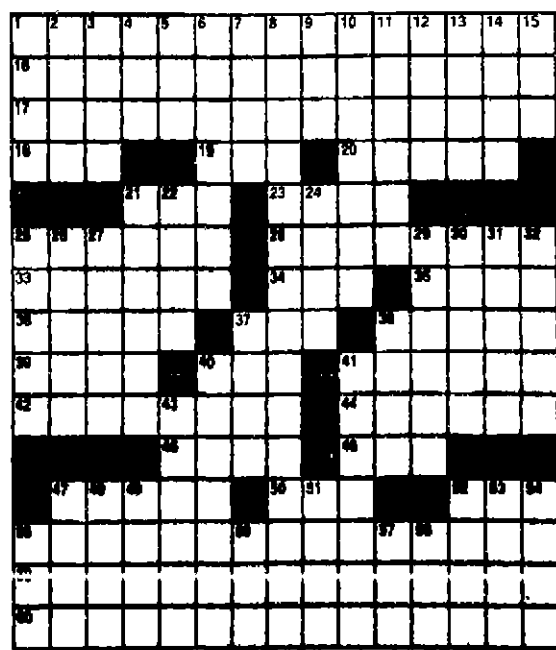
N.Y. TIMES CROSSWORD

No. 0109

- ACROSS: 1 Timeworn, as a joke; 16 Prince, perhaps; 17 Errors; 18 Beast of burden; 19 Resistance unit; 20 Country bumpkins; 21 Flood refuge; 22 Bric-a-brac; 23 Tar pits; 24 Yum-Yum lover in "The Mikado"; 25 Big Ten team; 26 Some radios; 27 Concern for Claudius; 28 Lodge members; 29 It may be ginned over.
- DOWN: 1 "For goodness sake!"; 2 "Star Wars" princess; 3 Magnific; 4 Roman candle path; 5 Penn or Union; 6 Hawaiian island; 7 Leave one's mark on; 8 Brief description; 9 Abode of the dead, in Norse myth; 10 Many Mormons; 11 "No respect," for Rodney Dangerfield; 12 With 27 Down, old English character actor; 13 Start of an explanation; 14 Wilson and Harding, e.g.; 15 The Platters' "Mine"; 21 Up; 22 Devil's Island escapee; 23 Right for the disabled; 24 It's neither here nor there; 25 Throw for; 26 See 18-Down; 27 Going nowhere.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

JARS SACCO LAGS
ADEE PLAIN ALIA
MAWABUTTERFLY
ACUTE USE LOADS
LAOHEME CAN
TIS SANDOAG
GENIAL TER IONA
EVIL EIDIA NATIA
ARIADNE DEL
BAS TURANDOT
MARAT OHM NORMA
NEARABSYPUCCINI
NEAR TIMON APIN
OSLO BTENO LSAT



- 40 Mission; 41 "Vissi d'..." from "Tosca"; 42 Was audibly impressed; 43 Portray; 44 Carried product since 1947; 45 New York's Bridge; 46 Kind of soup, in the South; 47 Wear it in good health; 48 Met home.
- 49 To be, in old Rome; 50 100 lbs.; 51 You can get a charge out of it; 52 Kind of show; 53 European street.

Answers to any three clues in this puzzle are available by touch-tone phone 1-800-426-8888 (78c per minute). Annual subscriptions are available for the best of Sunday crossword puzzles from the last 50 years. 1-888-7-ACROSS.